

chapterletter

Newsletter of the Boston Society of Architects
A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects
March/April 1979

Bill to Discourage Frivolous Suits

Rep. Andrew Card of Holbrook has filed legislation to discourage frivolous suits against accountants, architects, attorneys, engineers and land surveyors. The essence of this bill is to convene a three person panel to determine if cause exists to go to trial. If the panel decides negatively, the plaintiff can still proceed but must post Bond. In the event the case is lost, the Bond is forfeited to defray the defendant's costs.

This has been reviewed by AIA staff and counsel. They have endorsed it fully calling it model legislation. The MSAA legislative liaison with the Professional Engineering Societies has testified and given support to this bill before the Committee on the Judiciary.

Copies of the bill are available at the Chapter office. Mr. Erickson has been in touch with Andrew Card's office. Members should express their interest and support to the Co-Chairmen of the Committee on the Judiciary: Senator Alan D. Sisitsky and Rep. Michael F. Flaherty.

New Fellows

Two members of the Society have been advanced to Fellows in the American Institute of Architects. They are Sarah P. Harkness and G. W. Terry Rankine.

Both members will be inducted into the College of Fellows at the National Convention in Kansas City in June.



Sarah P. Harkness FAIA



G. W. Terry Rankine FAIA

The Middle East: A Mini-Banquet

The next BSA mini-banquet is scheduled for Thursday, May 3rd at 6:30 p.m. and will feature Albert Leo Romaneski PE, President of Sippican Consultants International. Sippican, whose divisions include Le Messurier Associates, Francis Associates and Tighe & Bond, is presently co-responsible (with Brown, Daltas) for the King Khalid Military City in Saudi Arabia, a mind-boggling \$6 billion project, and Mr. Romaneski will share his rare insights into the opportunities and pitfalls of international design contracts. His presentation, enriched by some excellent slides and film footage, will be further enhanced by a veritable feast of Middle Eastern delicacies at Boston's venerable Red Fez, 1222 Washington Street. There will be hummus and stuffed grape leaves, lamb shish kebab and baklava, and some forbidden (to Arabs only) potables to wash it all down.

A more qualified speaker to explain jet-lag architecture could hardly be imagined. Colonel Romaneski, an honor West Point graduate who served with the Corps of Engineers before managing the 3000 employees of the Panama Canal's Operating Bureau, has supervised design and engineering projects in Europe, Asia, Africa and both North and South America. He holds Master's degrees from both George Washington University and Cal Tech and a doctorate in Civil Engineering from Columbia, and he will be speaking to us only a few days after his return from yet another Middle Eastern foray, no doubt with much to tell us about the Saudi perception of the current Egypt/Israeli scene.

Mr. Romaneski is an excellent speaker, and we are honored indeed to have him host this mini-banquet. Cost will be \$15 per person all-inclusive. Reservations with check should be sent to the BSA as soon as possible.

LIBRARY

BOSTON ARCHITECTURAL CENTER

News from President Clancy and the Board of Directors

Blue Ribbon Committee Established

In April 1978 the Special Commission relative to corruption in certain State and County building contracts was established. It is known as the "Blue Ribbon Commission."

At the request of Nick Littlefield, Chief Counsel for the Commission, the MSAA has established a liaison committee to advise the Commission. George Notter FAIA has agreed to serve as Chairman as well as to review the selection processes in other states.

Members of the Committee with special areas of concern are:

Earl Flansburgh FAIA, to review ethical enforcement and the role of the Board of Registration;

Terry Rankine FAIA, to review the ideal selection process;

Robert Sturgis FAIA, to review the MSAA Select Committee Report on the DSB-1975.

In addition Peter Panagore AIA, President of MSAA, John Clancy AIA, President BSA, and Marilyn Fraser AIA, Vice President BSA, are serving as advisors. Reports to the membership will be made as timely and appropriate.

AIA National Convention

The 1979 AIA Convention will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, June 3-7. Any member attending may be a delegate by letting the Chapter office know in advance. The business sessions of the Convention are scheduled from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, June 4-6. If you wish to be a voting delegate, you should commit yourself to attending the business sessions.

Membership

New Members

John H. Cunningham, III AIA
Michael David Cohen AIA
Jeremiah Eck AIA
Jonathan S. Lane AIA
Stephen W. McWilliams AIA
James John O'Hara AIA
Gregory L. Pando AIA
James H. Piatt AIA
P. Michael Robinson AIA
Jonathan F. Warburg AIA
Christopher Todd Wise AIA

New Associate Members

Denis V. Boucher
Barbara Jeanne Boylan
Alfred J. Spagnolo

New Emeritus Members

James Lawrence, Jr. AIA
Hermann H. Field FAIA
John W. Peirce FAIA
Mario P. Pfaff AIA

New Unassigned Members

Christopher Chadbourne AIA
New York Chapter
Daniel Sullivan AIA
Virgin Islands Chapter

Transfers from Boston

Leon Goldenberg AIA to
Chicago Chapter
Abdel H. Ismail AIA to
Northern California Chapter
John R. Ismail AIA to
Spokane Chapter

Applicants for Membership

David Cornwall Cary
Timothy John Gale
Ronald F. Jarek
James Edward Langin
Andrea P. Leers
William A. Previdi
Henry Ricciuti
Andrew Sammataro
Gary J. Siden
David Arthur Taylor

Applicant for
Associate Membership
Frank A. Stasiowski

Applicants for
Emeritus Status
Israel Nigrosh AIA
Danton W. Sawyer AIA

The Building Code Monitor

Funds have been provided for monitoring the activities of the State Building Code Commission (SBCC) by the MSAA through Herbert Eisenberg AIA. The monthly Commission meetings will be covered as well as the meetings of the Fire Prevention—Fire Protection Board established by the SBCC. Space does not permit Mr. Eisenberg's full analysis. Any member may call the Chapter Office to receive the full report.

NEW CODE: The new code is expected to be received from the printer in early April. A hearing was held on March 6 to allow promulgation of the new code as soon as it is received. Allowing for delays you can expect the new code to be in effect around May 1 or possibly one week earlier.

EXISTING BUILDINGS: One of the items in the new code will be Section 22 covering existing buildings. The purpose of this section is to allow relief from the more stringent provisions of the code when considering the re-use of existing buildings. A great deal of discretion is allowed the building official under the new section. The SBCC is anxious to work with the design professions on putting the new provisions into practice. The SBCC voted that dual use of the existing code and the new code would be allowed until December 31, 1979. The new code will be in sole effect on January 1, 1980.

A newsletter concerning approved smoke detectors was authorized to be issued. The Underwriters Laboratory no longer publishes a list of approved smoke detectors and the newsletter contains the approved list for Massachusetts. Architects who wish to have this information should write the SBCC at 1 Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108 and ask for a copy of Newsletter NL 28-78.

FIRE PROTECTION BOARD: Wood burning stoves continue to be a hot issue (forgive the pun). The Fire Marshal had issued a memo on December 21, 1978 concerning some problems associated with prefabricated metal chimneys which have failed due to the high temperatures associated with air-tight wood burning stoves.

The SBCC with the Massachusetts Energy Office has published a booklet entitled "Wood-stove Installation Guide" which architects may find useful to have available. Call or write the SBCC for a copy. It is going into a second printing.

Boston Exports Awards 1979



Village of Loon Mountain, NH

Photo by Steve Rosenthal

The 1979 Boston Exports Awards were presented to the winners at the Annual Awards Dinner on April 4th.

An Award for Excellence in Architecture was given to:
Payette Associates for Jordan Hospital, Plymouth, MA
Huygens and Tappe, Inc. for the Village of Loon Mountain,
Loon Mountain, NH

An Award for Excellence in Architecture Involving Extended Use was presented to:
Anderson Notter Finegold, Inc. for the Mechanics Hall
Restoration/Addition, Worcester, MA

The Jury members were:
Earl R. Flansburgh FAIA, Ch.
Richard Bertman AIA
Sherrie Cutler AIA
W. Easley Hamner AIA
Wilson F. Pollock, Jr. AIA

Please note: All Boston Exports submissions must be picked up from the Chapter office by May 1, 1979. After that date they will be discarded.



Mechanics Hall, Worcester

Photo by Steve Rosenthal



Jordan Hospital, Plymouth

Photo by Nick Wheeler

News from the Chapter Office

Calendar

April 18

Designers' Lighting Forum
Workshop/Lecture, BAC

May 3

Mini-Banquet, Red Fez

May 4-5

Historic Preservation Conference
Clark University, Worcester

June 3-7

AIA National Convention
Kansas City

June 3-8

Signage Conference
SMU, North Dartmouth

Historic Preservation Conference

A conference on "Historic Preservation and the Community" will be held on May 4th and 5th at Clark University in Worcester. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Worcester Heritage Preservation Society, the focus of the conference will be on the interchange of experiences and ideas between local preservation groups.

Registration forms for the conference are available through either the Massachusetts Historical Commission or the Worcester Heritage Preservation Society. The cost is \$12 including breakfast and lunch both days and dinner on Friday. For more information contact Kim Davis at (617) 727-8470.

Rare Book Sale

The BAC has recently completed a survey and appraisal of its Memorial Library collection. Duplicates from this collection (other than those in the Robert Swain Peabody donation) are being offered for sale by means of a sealed bid. There are approximately 150 titles for sale, ranging from Clarence Blackall's *Builder's Hardware* for \$15 to Stuart and Revett's *Antiquities of Athens* in four volumes (1st ed.) for \$1,300. A list of the titles and their appraised values is available upon request from the Library. Books may be examined by appointment.

Sealed bids will be accepted from April 16 until noon on April 30, when the bids will be opened. If identical high bids are received for the same title, the books will be sold to the person whose bid was received earliest. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

All proceeds of the auction will be used in the preservation and conservation of Memorial Library.

Dragon Boat Festival

The Neighborhood Art Center, the Children's Museum, and Chinese Community Groups are organizing a Dragon Boat Festival to be held May 13th-19th in collaboration with the Cambridge River Festival.

The support of local architects and/or designers is needed to help build dragon heads for boats. For further information contact:

Leslie Swartz 522-4800 (days)
Marcia Iwasaki 523-0025 (evenings)

Un-built Projects Exhibit

In September 1979 the BAC will stage an exhibit of un-built projects by Boston area architects. Any firm interested in entering this show should submit material in an 8" x 10" ringbinder with the firm name and address clearly marked on the binder no later than May 7th. A selection committee at the BAC will pick out as large a variety of projects as can be accommodated. If your project is selected, you will be asked to submit finished stats and photographs in a form that will lend itself to an exhibition. All material should be addressed to: Jeremiah Eck, Boston Architectural Center, 320 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02115.

DLF Workshop/Lecture

The Designers' Lighting Forum is hosting a workshop and lecture on April 18th with the American Society of Interior Designers, the Boston Society of Architects and the National Home Fashions League. There will be a solution-oriented working session based on questions about residentially-adapted lighting problems at 4:00 p.m. Following cocktails and dinner, James L. Nuckolls IALD, President of the New York Lighting firm of Incorporated Consultants, Ltd., will lecture on the use of interior lighting in architectural spaces. The program will be held in Cascieri Hall at the Boston Architectural Center, 320 Newbury Street. Late pre-paid reservation fee is \$30. For more information concerning schedules and costs, contact Anne Robinson at TLA-Lighting Consultants in Salem (745-6870).

Signage Conference

A conference on Signage will be held on June 3-8 at Southeastern Massachusetts University (SMU), North Dartmouth, Massachusetts. The conference is sponsored by the Division of Continuing Studies under the supervision of Dietmar Winkler, Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Architects, Designers and other professionals from the U.S. and Europe who are responsible for public environments will present and discuss all aspects of signage. Among these speakers are: Coco Raynes (Conference Director); Rudolf DeHarak; Crawford Dunn; George Finley; John Follis; Thomas M. Payette; Massimo Vignelli and Jean Widmer.

The conference is limited to professionals. Registration fee is \$400 and accommodation at SMU is available on request. For information contact: Sign Conference, Division of Continuing Studies, SMU, North Dartmouth, MA 02747, (617) 999-8547.

Student Forum Lecture

The Harvard Architecture Student Forum is sponsoring Anthony J. Lumsden AIA, Principal for Design at DMJM in Los Angeles, in a lecture to be held on April 18th at 5:30 p.m. in Piper Auditorium, HGSD, 48 Quincy Street, Cambridge.